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DCI/IC 75-0359

20 AUG 1975

The Honorable James R. Schlesinger  
The Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301

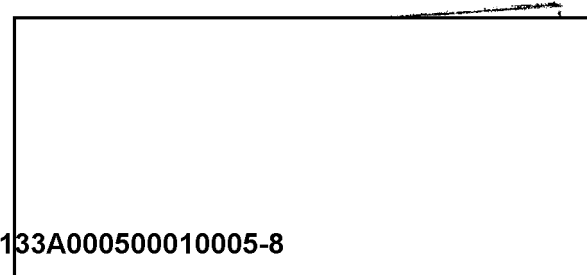
Dear Jim:

One of the areas of our mutual interest where I'm rather concerned that we begin showing further progress is the National/Tactical Intelligence Interface arena. The first phase of our work together, the "Pilot Study on National Intelligence Support to Field Commanders," is nearing completion and should provide some useful data on which we can proceed with some next steps. Rather than wait until the results of the Pilot Study are published in final form, however, I believe we should prepare to move ahead now at a higher level of priority. As you are aware, work in this area between the Joint Staff and my IC Staff has been proceeding on the basis of individual memoranda of agreement or correspondence. This approach has effectively served its purpose in the initial phases of investigation and has produced some results; but there is much to be accomplished to make the whole concept a productive reality to field commanders.

It seems to me that now is the time to plan for the establishment of a permanent National/Tactical Intelligence Interface "joint element" composed of key representatives of both the operational and intelligence communities and charged to proceed rapidly toward finding solutions to interface problem areas and implementing these solutions. In order to function effectively, this joint group must have mutually agreeable statements of policy and guidance. These policy and guidance statements, I believe, must be explicit and comprehensive and carry the necessary authority to produce the desired results.

I recommend, as the first step, the designation of permanent representatives for National/Tactical Intelligence Interface. Their first task should be the formulation of the policy and guidance statements; then

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the structure of the proposed "element." My representative will be Lieutenant General Samuel V. Wilson, USA, and I would appreciate your designating a representative with whom he can work.

Sincerely,

/s/

W. E. Colby

25X1 PD/DCI/IC [redacted]  
Retyped for changes SVWilson/hf 18 Aug 75  
Distribution:  
Orig - addressee  
1 - DCI  
1 - DDCI  
1 - ER  
① - IC Registry  
1 - D/DCI/IC  
1 - CS  
25X1 1 - MPRRD [redacted]  
1 - PD files  
1 - PD chrono